MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
71. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,75,655 for Original Works by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
72. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,64,300 for Protective Irrigation by Re. 1.

MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR :
73. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,64,300 for Protective Irrigation by Rs. 10.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :
74. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,64,300 for Protective Irrigation by Re. 1.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
75. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,64 300 for Protective Irrigation by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
76. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,64,300 for Protective Irrigation by Re. 1.

MR S. J. NAIR :
77. To omit the allotment of Rs. 10,00,000 for Town Planning Schemes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
78. To omit the allotment of Rs. 10,00,000 for Town Planning Schemes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
79. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,00,000 for Town Planning by Re. 1.

MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR :
80. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,000 for works by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
81. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 39,11,077 under Demand I by Rs. 5.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
82. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 39,11,077 under Demand I by Re. 1.

DEMAND II—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*). Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 36,24,149 under Demand II Electricity and Telephone.

Motion No. 83

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, I move :—

83. *'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,32,567 for Working Expenses by Re. 1.*

Sir, I am speaking on this motion restricting myself to the Trivandrum Electric Supply. Sir, I wish to bring to the attention of the House the fact that the Electrical Department is now collecting at a higher rate than it is absolutely necessary for them to do and thereby making a very huge profit. Sir, the supply of electricity when it is undertaken, is considered to be a matter that will facilitate social amenities. Life in Trivandrum town is becoming more and more costly on account of the various charges that have to be paid, by way of water cess, by way of electric charges and other items of expenditure. It may be said that, if you enjoy amenities, you will have to pay for them. We do not grudge that. But the question of the capacity of the tax payer should also be considered. Sir, it is very easy to show

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

that the department is running at a profit and that the department is making large profits if you make heavy charges on the public. I wish to point out that, so far as the ordinary consumer is concerned, the electricity charges are very much higher here than anywhere else. I think they are even higher than the charges obtaining in Madras. I do not think there is any necessity to show such a profit by this method. I think the consumption will be increased if the charges are reduced. Hence I wanted to bring this matter to the pointed attention of the Electrical Department. With these words, I move my motion.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, I strongly support Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's motion. I too feel that, if the charges for the consumption of electric power are reduced, there will be a greater consumption and for that reason it should be the look-out of the Government to see that the charges are reduced and the amenity extended for even the poor classes of the population in the city.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir, I too rise to support the motion. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, who moved the motion, argued in a general way that there is a case for a reduction of the rate charged for the energy supplied to the consumer. I shall place before the House certain facts and figures to show that there is a very strong case for effecting a reduction in the rate charged for the energy supplied. Sir, the total outlay on the Trivandrum Electric Supply up to the end of 1110 comes to Rs. 8.21 lakhs. The gross receipts from the working of the Trivanddum Electric Supply during 1110 come to Rs. 1·91 lakhs. Making allowances for all the working expenses, the net receipts for year come to Rs 1·11 lakhs. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 6,030 is appropriated towards pension or provident fund contribution, a sum of Rs. 39,350 towards interest and a sum of Rs. 46,000 towards depreciation fund. Making all these appropriations, there is yet a balance of Rs. 19,500 which is carried over to a reserve fund.

I ask whether there is any justification for taking from the consumer more than 5 per cent. interest on the outlay. There is absolutely no justification. The excess amount taken from the consumer over and above the interest and the appropriation to depreciation, should be given back to the consumer by way of reduction in rates. There is another aspect. If the rate is reduced, there will be an incentive to greater consumption and that will bring in more revenue. I do not want to labour this point further. This additional revenue should be given back to the consumer by way of a reduction of rates.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, I also wish to say a word in addition to what Mr. Karayalar has said. I would also refer to the fact that the depreciation fund itself is in the hands of Government. Mr. Karayalar was telling the House that Government are appropriating an amount on account of interest at the rate of 5 per cent. I want to say that the depreciation fund has already amounted to over Rs. 2 lakhs out of the Rs. 8 lakhs and that fund is in the hands of Government. That is all the more reason why the rates

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should be reduced. They must take credit only for the balance that will be necessary after deducting the interest on the depreciation fund.

MR. S. CHATTANATA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I ask whether the interest on the depreciation fund is not credited to the fund itself?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): If it is credited, then the revenue will be more than Rs, 19,000.

From the Report, I find that Government are not viewing the Trivandrum Electric supply as a separate concern as they ought to have done. They are mixing it up with the other Electric Schemes. I should submit to the House that this is not sound in principle. No doubt electricity is supplied to Trivandrum at Government cost. I mean the outlay came from Government. But then the accounts should be kept separate. The receipts of the Trivandrum Electric Supply Scheme should not be utilised to cover the deficit on account of other concerns The net revenue of Rs. 19,000 is used for clearing the deficit on account of the Quilon Electric Scheme. Evidently, the Department or the Government think that the various schemes should be viewed as a whole. If there is a loss, they think that it should be made good from the Trivandrum scheme. Even then, they should not charge the consumers more than what is required to re-imburse the interest on the outlay. I think the rate per unit could be reduced by one-third. I support the motion.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Sir, I want to support the motion before the House. But at the same time I wish to protest against the erroneous notion of Mr. Thanu Pillai about the mixing up of the Quilon Scheme with the Trivandrum Scheme. If my information is correct, the scheme which the Travancore Government had in regard to supply of electricity is this: -

When the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme is developed, it is expected that current will be supplied at a rate cheaper than what it is now. All the accounts under the different schemes would then be brought under one scheme and moderation would be effected on all the different rates then prevailing. The accounts will be kept separate till then.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I ask the member whether he has referred to page 12 of the Departmental Report for 1110?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Yes. The Quilon Electric Scheme is earning its own profit. It is giving a small profit by way of interest and depreciation fund. The Trivandrum Scheme earns much larger profit. The Quilon Scheme does not depend upon the Trivandrum Scheme for its sustenance.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I bring to the notice of the Honourable member page 87 of the Report for 1110 wherein it is stated that the Quilon Electric supply worked at a loss of Rs. 12,000?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): That was because it had only just commenced business.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Does the member also realise that, according to the Government accounting of the transactions relating to the electric supply for Quilon and Trivandrum and the Telephone scheme resulted in a profit and not in a loss? That was arrived at because the Trivandrum receipts and the Quilon receipts were considered together.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: With regard to that, I want to say that these published Reports are in the hands of Mr. Krishna Pillai also The presumption is that he has read them.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, I made a reference to the Report because my friend stated that I had an erroneous notion. If I do not correct him now by interrupting him, I have no other opportunity to do so.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Sir, may I refer to page 21 of the Preliminary Budget put into our hands?

The question now is whether the rate for the Trivandrum supply should be reduced or not. My learned friend is under the impression that, owing to bad accounting, the profits of the Trivandrum scheme are utilised for the purpose of serving the Quilon public. That is an erroneous impression as may be explained by the Electrical Engineer.

There is another important matter to be considered. Considering the large profits that are being earned by the Department, it is possible to reduce the rate at which current is being now supplied in the Trivandrum town itself.

I wish to bring to the notice of the House that the person in charge of the administration of the Trivandrum scheme asks more money by way of deposits from consumers. Now an arbitrary amount is demanded before we enter into an agreement with the Department. The Executive Engineer may demand Rs. 25 or Rs. 35 or Rs. 40 as deposit. Formerly, there was a fixed principle; now it is done in an arbitrary manner. When you have a house connection you will be able to get connection with the public line immediately the work is finished. But the trouble begins when you go to the office for an agreement. They ask for Rs. 25 or Rs. 35.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): What is the object of making such a deposit?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) To make work easy for him by making it difficult for us to consume electricity. Otherwise I cannot understand why he should think that, after spending about Rs. 200 on installing electricity in a house, the house-owner will try to deprive the department of its money. The Executive Engineer seems to be under the impression that the Trivandrum people are slack in the matter of payment. Therefore, to get more security he wants us to pay deposit for four months' consumption in advance

It should be made possible for all people to go in for electricity by reducing the rate and also the initial deposit.

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MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion. I have myself tabled a motion for a similar purpose. I understand that Government have moved in the matter, for at the last meeting of the Assembly in answer to a question put by me they said that they are considering the question of reducing the rates. I hope they will do so.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Sir, I wish to say a word on this motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Before the Honourable member begins his speech I want to say a word. I do not want that, even for one moment, an Honourable member of this House should be under any misapprehension. I am saying this with reference to the word which I used—very deliberately used—namely, the word "frivolous". *Frivolous* means futile, trifling, not serious. *Serious* means not slight. *Futile* means ineffective; *trifling* means unimportant. Therefore, it carries no sting. And Mr. Kuriyan need not be afraid of the word used.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): In the light of this observation, may I know whether I too can use that phrase in connection with the discussion in this House.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The word will have a meaning according to the setting. If the setting is alright, it can be used; if the setting is bad, the member will be stopped from using it.

The House adjourned at 5 P. M. to meet again the next day.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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